

PKEFACE TO FEW EDITION, 1909

HAVING for many years abandoned the study of this period of history for other fields of research, I have not in this edition felt competent to do more than remove one or two positive errors of fact which were pointed out to me. I have left all generalisations on controversial subjects as they were written, although Mr. Coulton, the distinguished author of 'From St. Francis to Dante' and 'Chaucer and his England' has shown me, with chapter and verse, several particulars in which he thinks that I have drawn too favourable a picture of the Mediaeval Church. But as I am unable to give the study necessary in order to judge for myself, I leave the book as it is, and merely refer the reader to several recent publications of importance, where these and other matters treated of in this book are discussed by such able controversialists as Dr. Gairdner as champion of the Mediaeval Church and the heresy-hunters, and Mr. Coulton on behalf of freedom of thought and the anti-clerical rebellion. I would therefore mention Mr. Coulton's 'Chaucer and his England' (Methuen: 1908); Dr. Gardner's 'Lollardy and the Reformation' (Macmillan: 1908, 2 vols.), and the reviews of it in the 'Churchman' for February 1909 and the 'Hibbert Journal' for April 1909; Mr. W. H. Summers' 'The Lollards of the Chiltern Hills' (Griffiths: 1906); the articles in the 'Church Quarterly Review' for October 1900 and January 1901 on Dr. Gasquet and the Old English Bible; Mr. Armitage Smith's 'John of Gaunt' (Constable: 1904); and Professor Oman's 'The Great Revolt of 1381' (Clarendon Press: 1901), which should be com-